

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 AEC-11 ISO-00 MC-02 SCI-06 ACDA-19 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT:JMGREGORY, JR.:MAR

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT:JMGREGORY, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092993

EXCON

E.O. 11652:YGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, IT, HU

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COCOM EXCEPTION REQUEST: IBM SYSTEMS TO
HUNGARY

REF : ROME 6055

1. EMBASSY MAY INFORM MINGAZZINI OF MFA THAT THE PROPOSED
IBM 370/125 EXPORT RAISES PROBLEMS WHICH ARE UNDER VERY
ACTIVE GOVERNMENT-WIDE REVIEW AND NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO PROMPT
RESOLUTION. IBM WORLD TRADE CORP. IS AWARE OF THE ISSUES
AND MFA MAY WISH TO SUGGEST THAT THE SUBSIDIARY IN ITALY
SEEK ADVICE FROM THE FORMER.

2. FOR EMBASSY AND MFA INFORMATION, THE PRINCIPLE ISSUE
IS WHETHER TO PERMIT THE FIRST EXPORT TO COMMUNIST COUN-
TRIES OF IBM 3330 DISC DRIVES, WHICH PERMIT A FOURFOLD
CAPACITY AT TRIPLED SPEED OVER THE TYPICAL DRIVES BEING
EXPORTED AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE 3330'S ADDED CAPACITY,
SPEED, AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR
STRATEGIC CONCERN WHICH ARE UNDER REVIEW. FURTHER MEASURES
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OF POSSIBLE COMPLEXITY ARISE FROM THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH

THE 370/125 SYSTEM IS SMALLER THAN MANY COMPUTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR EXPORT TO THE EAST, IT IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ANY OTHER DRIVE THAN THE 3330 AND THEREFORE EVEN IF IBM DID NOT INTEND TO DISCONTINUE MANUFACTURE OF ITS OTHER DISC DRIVES, NO LESSER DRIVES MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR IT. OTHER PARTS OF THE SYSTEM PROPOSED FOR EXPORT ARE ADVANCED AND DESERVING OF REVIEW BUT THESE LATTER CONSIDERATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY ADDRESSED PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST. RUSH

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